

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR
1925.

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Councillor C.S.TROW, ESQ. (VICE-CHAIRMAN).

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. BERTRAM ADDENBROOKE, M.D: B.Hy:

SURVEYOR. A.S.NORTHOVER.

SANITARY INSPECTOR. D.LLEWELLYN, A.R.S.I.
(Certified Sanitary & Meat Inspector)

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KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
year ending December 31st, 1925.

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March, 1926.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, to submit a survey report on all matters affecting public health within Kidderminster Rural District during the year 1925.

It has been my practice in my Annual Reports to deal comprehensively with various aspects. Comparisons will show that considerable progress has been effected, notably as evidenced by the reduced number of cases of infectious diseases notified, fewer closures of schools, better scavenging schemes, particularly those in the more populous parishes of Cookley and Wolverley, and Wribbenhall. The general health of the people is much better, another pleasing feature being that an attendance of practically 100 per cent of scholars on school registers has been maintained.

A water supply is now being provided for both Cookley and Wolverley districts, which will be most beneficial to the residents.

The question of a water supply for Chaddesley Corbett, another of the large parishes, is also under consideration.

Considerable attention has been paid to the problems of Housing. Every available building that could be adapted as a dwelling, has been repaired and made habitable, between 20 and 30 such buildings having been thus converted during the past five years.

Food inspection has received more attention during the past year than in any previous one, owing to the new Meat Regulations which came into operation on April 1st, 1925. Food shops of all kinds have been frequently inspected by your Officers.

This District has the benefit of the Welfare Societies working in Kidderminster, while all cases of Tuberculosis are dealt with by the County Council by treatment at their several Sanatoria.

Provision is made for the treatment of infectious diseases at the Borough Hospital, and for Venereal diseases at the Kidderminster and District General Hospital.

The home treatment of nine out of the 11 cases of scarlet fever notified, and the bearing of the cost of treatment by relatives of the one patient removed, has meant a great financial saving to your Council. It will be of interest to you to know that only Seven cases of fever have been removed for treatment at the expense of the Council during the past 13 years-1913-1925-although there have been during that same period a total of 235 cases notified. It must not be forgotten, however, that the bulk of the work of supervision of the homes of the patients to ensure proper precaution being taken against the spread of infection, has been done by your Sanitary Inspector, without whose co-operation it would have been impossible to have secured such satisfactory results. For long periods at different times in the year no cases of infectious disease of any kind occurred.

TOPOGRAPHY. The elevation of the district as compared with the Borough of Kidderminster is conducive to the health of the people resident therein, and amenable to the best sanitary conditions. The longevity of the residents in several parishes is a feature often brought to public notice by voluntary activities. It has been my purpose to develop natural advantages, and with the co-operation of your Sanitary Inspector, I am gratified to report satisfactory progress.

BIRTHS. A total number of 125 births were registered as having occurred in the district during the year, which is equivalent to a birth rate of 16.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population of 7591, compared with 15.27 for 1924. This total is higher by 8 than that recorded in 1924, when the number of births was 117. Of the total births 65 were male, and 60 were female (of which 2 were illegitimate) occurring as follows

WOLVERLEY DISTRICT.	Male 45.	Female 43.	Total 88.
BEWDLEY	" " " 20.	" 17.	" 37.
	Totals. 65.	60.	125.

DEATHS:--The total number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 94 compared with 91 for 1924. This gives a mortality rate of 12.3 per 1000 of the population for the whole district compared with 11.8 for the previous year. Deaths of 8 non-residents took place in the district while 23 residents died outside your district. It is worthy of mention that in the Wolverley District which comprises several parishes, 38 deaths of persons above the age of 65 occurred, 28 of these being above 70 years. In the Bewdley District, there were 14 deaths above 60 years, 12 of which reached well over 70 years. These figures speak well of the longevity attained by residents.

INFANTILE MORTALITY:--The number of deaths among children under one year was 11 giving a mortality rate of 88.0 per 1000. This is 8 deaths more than in 1924. Three of these deaths were premature and one was of an illegitimate child of 5 months. The death rate is considerably higher than that recorded in the previous year, 42.7 per 1000 and is also higher than the average, but it is below the average death rate of England & Wales.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. SCARLET FEVER:--There were 11 cases of Scarlet fever notified compared with 24 for 1924. One case only was removed to Hospital for treatment. The husband of the patient (a young woman of 23) was engaged in the retailing of milk, but he was prohibited from taking any part in the business until all danger was over. Five cases occurred at Chaddesley Corbett, the disease in the first place being introduced by a boy on a visit from Bridgnorth. All five cases were found to be the result of intercommunication between the respective families, in four of which they were related. Another case notified was that of a boy boarder at Bury Hall, Wolverley. He was treated at the School sanatorium, no further outbreaks resulting at that school. At Coney Green near Stourport a girl age 8 years made satisfactory recovery under home treatment. A boy age 5 of Cookley made similarly satisfactory recovery at home from a mild attack. All cases were of a mild character. Every precaution was taken. Special visits of inspection were made to the schools and homes of children absent from school, such steps being considered effective in preventing what might have been a serious outbreak. It was reported that a case of fever had occurred at Iwerley which was believed to be in our area, but on making enquiries it was found that the boy lived outside the District. He had been removed to Kingswinford Isolation Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA:--Three cases were notified, one each at Wolverley, Shatterford and Spennells. The latter had been removed to the Kidderminster Hospital for the operation of tracheotomy and while an inpatient there was notified by the House Surgeon. All progressed satisfactorily. The great improvements effected in the sanitary conditions of the district have had most beneficial effect on the health of the residents.

MEASLES:--A series of outbreaks of Measles took place during the summer months but all were of a very mild nature. In July, Trimpley and Hoo-brook were chiefly affected, the attendance at the schools in both cases being badly affected although not to such extent as to necessitate closing the schools. A child of 5 years residing in the district, while on holiday at Blackpool was found to be suffering from measles. A visit paid to the boy's home after his return found him recovered.

MALARIA:--No case was notified neither was any notification in 1924. These cases occurred during the war period and on the return of men from the Eastern theatre of War. It seems to have spent itself, no cases having been reported for several years.

TYPHOID & ENTERIC FEVER. No cases have been notified, there was one in 1924.



INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA:--There have been no cases notified during the year, one case occurred in 1924. In the early part of the year, February and March, the district in common with all parts of the country experienced an epidemic of influenza. A special visit to all schools was made to ascertain to what extent children were affected. Very satisfactory conditions were then found.

PUERPERAL FEVER:--Only one case was reported, that of a young married woman of 22 years at Cockley. She fully recovered and the family left the district.

TUBERCULOSIS:--Seven cases were notified compared with 11 for 1924. One was of a school case, a girl age 12 years who attended the Open-air school at Malvern and is now removed from the register as cured. Only one death took place, that of a young woman at Cockley. All her bedding was destroyed and compensation paid. The Sanitary Inspector fumigated a Shelter at Puxton which had been used by a young man of 20 years while suffering from this disease. The Shelter was taken to another part of the County. Under the new Tuberculosis Regulations 1924, all cases since 1912 had to be tabulated for the County Authority and all deaths and removals and also cured cases eliminated. During the period under review there were 139 cases dealt with but after the required eliminations these were reduced to 33 actual cases of all ages in the whole of your district. Of these 24 are Pulmonary and 9 Non-pulmonary.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM:--Two cases were notified, at Chaddesley Corbett, twins, boy and girl four days old. Both progressed very satisfactorily. No case occurred in 1924.

ANTHRAX:--Neither last year nor 1924 were any cases notified. It is five years since the last case occurred in the district.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP:--No case reported, none in 1924.

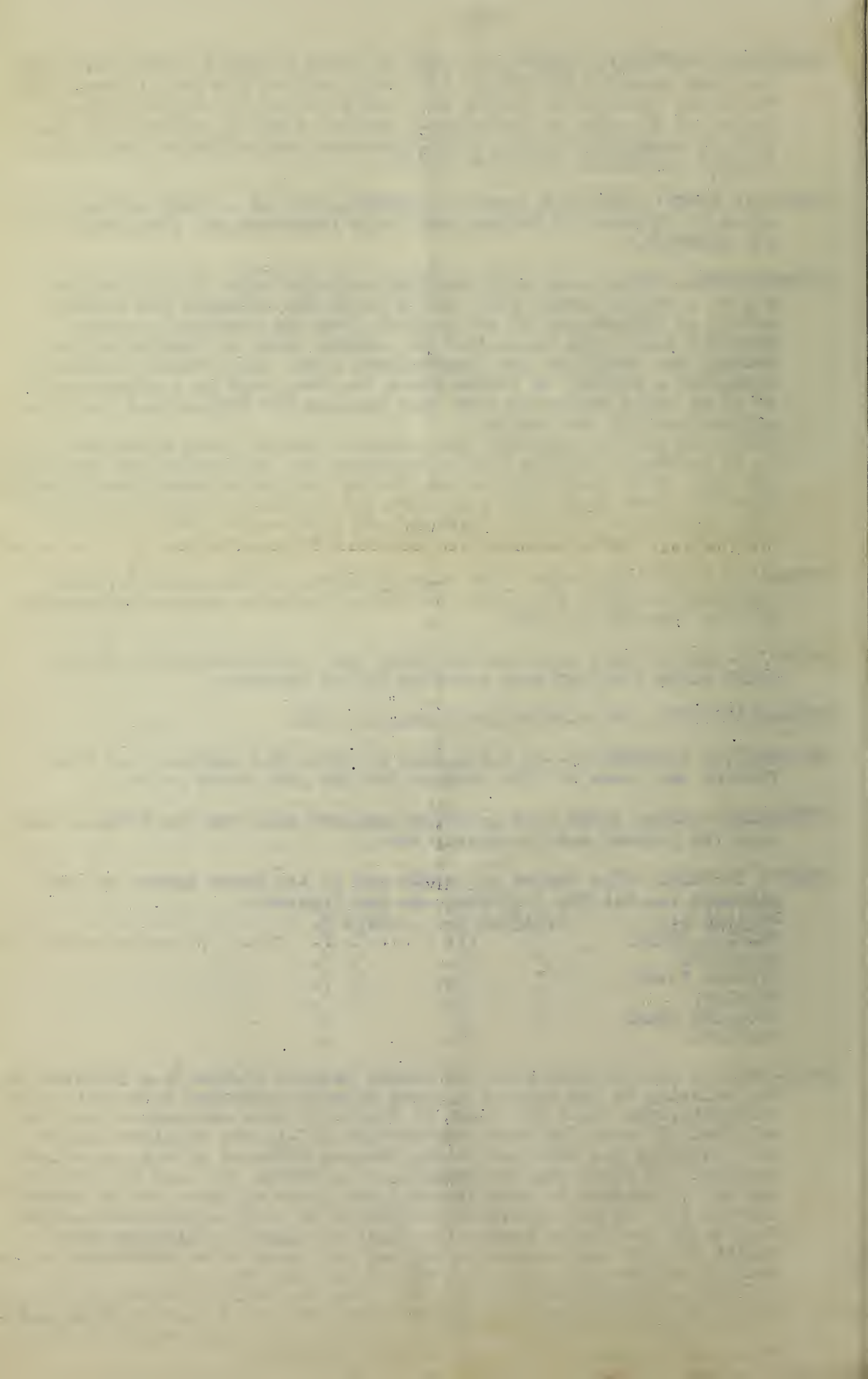
ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA:--No cases, none in 1924. The district has been free of any cases of this disease for the past seven years.

ERYSIPELAS:--Three cases were notified compared with one for 1924, in each case the patient was an elderly man.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES:--The number of deaths due to the seven common epidemic diseases was Nil. The following are the figures:--

Small-pox.	Notified 0.	Died 0.
Scarlet fever.	" 11.	" 0.
Diphtheria.	" 3.	" 0.
Typhoid fever.	" 0.	" 0.
Measles.	" 0.	" 0.
Whooping Cough	" 0.	" 0.
Diarrhoea.	" 0.	" 0.

SMALL-POX:--A notification from the County Medical Officer was received in May relating to the case of a young soldier returning from India on a troopship, upon which two cases of Small-pox were discovered, and disembarked at Malta. The final destination of all the soldiers aboard the troopship was reported to the Medical Officers of the respective districts in which the men resided, and although the case in question was not a resident in your district, his place of abode was so close thereto that it was considered advisable to visit and investigate so that every protective precaution might be taken to safeguard the health of your district. The young man was found to be perfectly healthy and bore no trace whatever of the disease. In June a notification was received from the Medical Officer of Health to Stourbridge U.D.C., of the occurrence of a case of Small-pox in that district, the patient a man of 24, having been removed to the Small-pox hospital at Lower Hasbury, Nr Halesowen.



SCHOOLS:--The schools have not been severely affected by sickness at any particular period during the year. There have been in several instances a reduced attendance on account of minor outbreaks of childrens ailments, but in only five cases were schools closed for short periods. Hill Pool and Wribbenhall Council schools were closed from February 25 to Feb 28th, and Feb 25 to March 7th respectively for Influenzal colds.

Wribbenhall C.E. Schools (Infants Dept) from April 28th to May 18th for Whooping cough: Chaddesley Corbett Infants from Oct 5th to Oct 18th for scarlet fever and colds: and Upper Arley schools from Dec 21st to 23rd for Chicken-pox.

In April, Wribbenhall C.E. school was affected with Chicken-pox, Whooping Cough and Influenza. At Cookley and Churchill during June a number of scholars were absent from Chicken-pox: at Hoobrook and Trimpley during July the attendance was depleted on account of Measles, but in none of these cases was it so adversely affected as to justify closing of the schools.

During Oct 19th-Nov 2nd, five schools were closed for one week each to allow of elder scholars to go picking potatoes although very few did the work.

The Sanitary Inspector makes quarterly surveys of all schools throughout the district and submits special reports at each of the quarterly meetings of your Council. Much useful information is obtained in this manner which gives clear indication during each period of the prevailing health conditions. It was found that during the greater part of the year the attendance was exceedingly good, in several instances 100 per cent.

During the summer holidays a number of the school buildings were cleansed, limewashed and painted besides minor repairs being carried out to others. Considerable sanitary improvements were effected at Hill Pool school, at Stone and Chaddesley Corbett schools. Such improvements are conducive to the health of children attending the schools as in September it was reported that the health conditions prevailing throughout the district were most gratifying and that with the exception of two cases of Whooping Cough at Wribbenhall and one case of Chicken-pox at Trimpley, there was no sickness of any kind among the 1123 children attending the various schools.

WATER SUPPLY:--The water supplies of the district have been well looked after, there has been no shortage. Samples taken from time to time were submitted to the County Analyst. A large number of houses were provided with water from public mains in various parts of the district and in many cases the Wells have been thoroughly cleaned out and improvements effected in their surroundings in practically every parish within the area. At Wribbenhall in the early part of the year 27 houses were connected with public mains. There are now very few houses in that parish not provided with tap water.

At Drayton Villa Farm, Chaddesley Corbett, the water supply and drainage system has been thoroughly cleansed and the property put into a very satisfactory condition.

A public supply of water was obtained for the House, Farm and Cottage at Puxton in consequence of the County Analyst having certified the natural supply as unfit for drinking purposes. A similar improvement was effected in regard to three cottages on the Lea Castle Estate at Sion Hill.

Grey Green, Wribbenhall: Barnett Mill Cottages, Chaddesley Corbett: and a residence on an Estate at Stone have received investigation, certain adjustments being found necessary.

As regards Chaddesley Corbett Village water supply--when the Sanitary Inspector acting under the direction of your Medical Officer took 25 samples of water--there were indications that--taken as a whole--the Village water supply was unsatisfactory. Only one sample was certified fit for drinking purposes. The samples are being dealt with by the County Analyst and a further report thereon submitted to your Council. The Cookley and Wolverley district is now provided with its own water

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supply. By temporary means of water carts residents whose Wells are condemned or whose pumps are defective receive supplies of good water. The County Analyst visited the Borehole at Lower Cookley and saw the work of laying mains in this district which is now making good progress.

HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING ACTS:--Conditions in this district are fairly satisfactory. A great deal of work has been done under the Housing Acts in making habitable buildings that could be easily adapted. In this way quite a number of additional dwellings have been provided, including:-- Bryn Stour Cottage, Cookley, one of two which had been empty for 40 years: Bourne Green Cottage, Chaddesley Corbett.

Closing Orders were issued as regards a Cottage at the Old Forge, Wolverley, and one at Puxton Meadow, both buildings being in a dangerous condition.

Special Reports are being submitted on Housing Schemes for both Chaddesley Corbett and Wolverley parishes.

A detailed statement of what has been done throughout the district will be found in the report of your Sanitary Inspector.

I would also suggest comparison with this part of my own report for the previous year to get a clear idea of the progress achieved.

MILK SUPPLY:--The milk supply of the district is good in quality and sufficient in quantity as might be expected in a large producing district. There have been 9 wholesale producers and 12 retailers of milk registered during the year. All premises were visited at various times and necessary cleansing and renovations carried out. Important sanitary improvements were carried out notably at Comberton Dairy: Swancote Farm and Beech Tree Farm, with a view of securing the best hygienic conditions possible and safeguarding the health of consumers.

OVERCROWDING:--Two cases only have been reported during the year. One at Rushock where two families numbering 11 lived in a cottage. With the co-operation of the Relieving Officer and the Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C, remedial action was taken. The other was at a cottage at Spennells. In this case one of the two families subsequently removed from the district.

RIVER AND STREAM POLLUTION:--All the rivers and streams flowing through the district have been kept under observation during the year, several special investigations taking place to prevent flooding and possible pollution. At the beginning of the year, attention was devoted to the river Stour at Cookley and at Falling Sands below Kidderminster. In the former instance, floodgates were put into proper working order with the co-operation of owners. At Falling Sands after joint action with the Borough Surveyor of Kidderminster and his staff, tree trunks found obstructing the river and the floodgates were removed.

There have been many clearances of trees and other obstructions, attention having been given to the difficulties at Hoobrook.

In August the Clerk to the Board of the Severn Fishery District drew attention to tipping at Wribbenhall near the river Severn, suggesting that sewage matter flowed into the river at that point. That however was not the case. For some time men were engaged in filling up gaps-- which were dangerous--on the riverside public footpaths.

In June, your Sanitary Inspector took part in an exhaustive survey of the river Severn and its tributaries. The survey was undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Lieut L. Hugh Milne, District Inspector representing the Ministry and Mr C.C. Duncan, County Analyst of Worcester, being interested in the proceedings. Dr E.C. Jee from the Ministry came down and the survey began at Shrewsbury, samples being taken of the effluents from the tributaries as far as Arley and onward to Tewkesbury, a distance of over 30 miles.

The course of the river Stour from Stewponey to its confluence with the Severn at Stourport was also surveyed.

Dr Jee and Lieut Milne warmly appreciated the efforts already made by

your Council in dealing with the rivers under its jurisdiction. Dr Jee recommended that your Sanitary Inspector should be provided with apparatus for taking samples of water from the streams mentioned and he expressed appreciation of the valuable assistance which Mr Llewellyn with your permission was able to render during the survey.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS:--Many cases have been dealt with under these Acts during the year but no outbreak of any disease occurred in any part of the district. There were a few isolated cases of beasts affected with a form of Anthrax. At Hill Pool a heifer on the day following its removal from Leominster market in May was found by Veterinary Inspection to have died from exhaustion. At Sion Farm, Chaddesley Corbett, four months later a one year old heifer was found dead from suspected Anthrax. The Veterinary Surgeon certified it to be Black-leg and the carcass was immediately buried in lime. Two cases occurred at Cookley at the end of August. Later, in November, a two year old bullock, one of a large stock at Lower Dunclett Farm was destroyed, similar precautions of thorough disinfection were taken. In December, there was an outbreak of swine fever at Churchill causing five deaths.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION:--The Public Health Meat Regulations 1924 came into operation on April 1st, 1925. These impose a great deal of responsibility on your Sanitary Inspector, for special visits of inspection have to be made at all times of the day, early morning and late evenings to secure efficient inspection of slaughtering at Cottagers and farmers' premises in every parish.

The Sanitary Inspector is specially qualified to deal with matters of Meat and Food Inspection. He holds the Royal Sanitary Institutes' Diplomas as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Inspector of Nuisances, also for Hygiene; and the Diploma of the Sanitary Inspector's Examination Board, London, for Sanitary Inspectors. He has had to devote a considerable amount of time weekly to this work, not only to inspect the number of animals slaughtered but also by reason of the isolated places to be covered.

Carcasses of 7 sheep, 5 pigs and 2 bullocks inspected under these regulations were condemned as unfit for food.

Foodshops, Fishmongers' barrows and Fruiterers hawkers are inspected from time to time.

In December I was notified by the Medical Officer of Health for the London Borough of Southwark that a consignment of 100 cases of Unsound Condensed milk was sent into this district for cattle, pig and poultry feeding. On enquiry it was found that the milk was only used for the purpose stated.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES:--All such buildings have been periodically inspected to examine the carcasses of animals for food. Two new slaughterhouses were erected in Chaddesley Corbett which have been licensed by your Council. Sanitary improvements to buildings at Cookley have been carried out. The knacker's premises at Oldington have been removed to a new site in the same district. All other licences were renewed as the respective businesses were being carried on satisfactorily. The buildings at Barrow Hill Farm were closed two weeks in October owing to the death of a small pig suspected of swine fever. On examination of certain organs it was found to have died from other causes and the restrictions were therefore removed. The premises were cleansed and limewashed as required.

BAKEHOUSES:--These have been regularly visited and any conditions requiring attention were promptly dealt with when request was made to the persons responsible. There are no underground bakehouses in the district.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS:--A number of cases dealt with related to the keeping of animals in such a condition as to be a nuisance, e.g., pigkeeping close to highways, improper cleaning, deficient drainage, etc., At Wribbenhall fowls were kept in a yard close to dwellings and in such a state as to be most offensive. Not until a Statutory notice was served was the nuisance abated.

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SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT:--A general inspection of the whole district was made at intervals, and any conditions likely to be prejudicial to the health of residents were recorded and dealt with as soon as possible. During the last quarter of the year, at the request of your Council, a special inspection was made of Chaddesley Corbett, Cookley and Wolverley districts comprising in all 347, 328 and 227 houses, a total of 902 houses, Special reports thereon are now under the consideration of the Council.

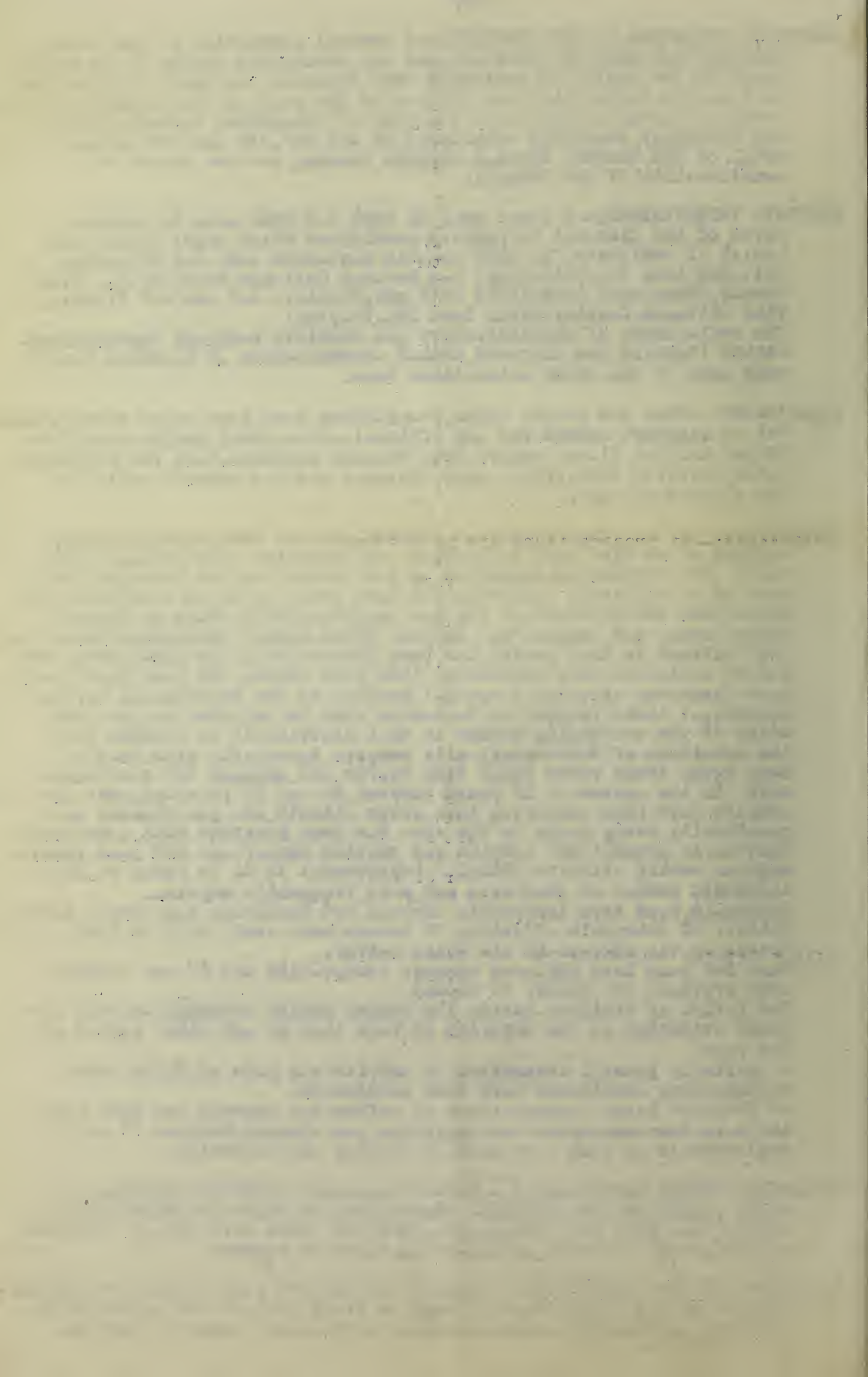
SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS:--A great deal of work has been done in various parts of the district to improve conditions which might affect the health of residents. The most notable instances are:--1-7 Wolverley Cottages, Lock Inn, Wolverley: 1-4 Hanover Cottages, Wribbenhall: Hare & Hounds, Shenstone: Austcliffe Cottages, Cookley: 1-3 and 4-7 Trimpley View Cottages, Cookley: Robin Hood Inn, Drayton: The replacement of unsatisfactory and obsolete sanitary conveniences, better lighting and improved urinal accommodation at Licensed houses were some of the chief alterations made.

PEA-PICKERS:--When the season began, pea-pickers were kept under observation but no incident called for any official action. Many people came from Dudley and the Black Country. Good bedding accommodation was provided, water supplies were within easy distance and the general health of the pickers was good.

SCAVENGING:--The scavenging work at Wribbenhall has been satisfactorily carried on as also that at Cookley and Wolverley. The tips in each place were frequently inspected as was another on the Stourport Road used by an adjoining Authority. All were found to be in a satisfactory state. When the Wribbenhall tip was unapproachable owing to floods other ground was temporarily secured until normal conditions prevailed. The Contract in that parish has been renewed with the same person who has so satisfactorily discharged this work during the past four years. Your Inspector attended a special meeting of the Wribbenhall Parish Council, at their request, in September when he reported on the operation of the scavenging scheme in that district. It is claimed that the condition of Wribbenhall will compare favourably with that of many large towns where whole time staffs are engaged for scavenging work. In the course of 16 years between 80 and 90 privy-middens and ashpits have been converted into water closets and pan closets and practically every house in the area has been provided with a separate dustbin. At present 230 ashbins are emptied weekly and 220 pans receive regular weekly attention. Similar improvement is to be found in the increased number of cesspools now more frequently emptied. Dumbwells have been thoroughly cleaned out involving many extra days' labour. 43 cesspools affecting 98 houses were dealt with in four months by the removal of all solid matter. Many new pans have replaced wornout receptacles and 67 new ashbins were provided for nearly 90 houses. The influx of visitors during the summer months necessitate more frequent attention in the emptying of pans than in any other period of the year. A quarterly general inspection of ashpits was made at Arley where satisfactory conditions have been maintained. At Hoobrook large accumulations of refuse was removed and many privies have been converted into approved pan closets. Between 30 and 40 replacements of pans were made at Cookley and Wolverley.

NUISANCES:--These have been of a varied character affecting practically every parish in the district:--rag-sorting on highways, depositing of refuse near Hill Pool school, etc., Most of these were not of a serious nature, prompt remedial action being taken on request.

BUNGALOWS AND CAMP INSPECTION:--General visits were paid during the holiday seasons to all Bungalows and Camps in every part of the district. The sanitary arrangements complied with the standard insisted upon by your Officers.



TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS:--In various parts of the district, Chaddesley Corbett, Drayton, Hoobrook, Axboro, Wolverley, a number of irregularities were found which were not of a serious character. The dirty and unkempt conditions of travelling Gypsies in their caravans was a source of irritation. They quickly moved out of the district by request. A notice board has been erected on ground near Beech Tree Farm, Cookley, warning Gypsies away, and has had the desired effect.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:--Constant observations have been kept during the year. Schemes for new drainage systems and sanitary improvements to premises have often been discussed with owners and agents. The Sanitary Inspector has made numerous smoke tests and defects so found were subsequently remedied. A portion of the sewer at Wribbenhall was relaid in the early part of the year at the expense of your Council. Conversions of privy-middens and ash-pits have been effected in almost every parish. The Sanitary condition has considerably improved through more attention being given to lighting and ventilation.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:--Periodical visits have been made to all Factories and Workshops in the district and no serious infringements of the Factory Acts were found. Cleansing and limewashing and other improvements at Steel Stampings Works, Cookley, where about 130 men are employed, received attention on request being made.

OUTWORKERS:--At present there are no outworkers in the district. A short list was supplied by a local firm last year relating to three persons who had ceased homework when visited.

MIDWIVES ACTS:--These Acts are administered by the County Authorities to whom all notifications are sent. Health Visitors appointed by the County Council make necessary visits.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES:--There are no Common Lodging houses or Cellar dwellings in the district.

TUBERCULOSIS (MEAT) INSPECTION ORDER OF 1925:--This Order provides for the slaughter of bovine animals affected with certain specified forms of tuberculosis and for the payment of compensation in respect of animals so slaughtered. Notice of intended slaughter must now be given to the Sanitary Authority and no part of the carcass shall be removed for the purpose of being disposed for human consumption except with the consent of the Medical Officer of Health or other competent Officer. A number of cases under this Order have already been dealt with by your Sanitary Inspector.

MILK & DAIRIES CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1925:--This Act passed in 1915, came into operation on September 1st, 1925. It repeals and re-enacts a number of provisions contained in the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts and the Sale of Food & Drugs Acts with regard to Milk & Dairies. Powers are given for stopping supplies of milk which are likely to cause tuberculosis. Health Officers now have enlarged powers for requiring the authorised Officer of another Authority to take samples of milk on notice being given.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925:--The chief changes arising from further regulations made on July 31st, 1925, under the Public Health Acts (section 130) deal with persons engaged in the milk trade who are suffering from tuberculosis. Local Authorities are now empowered in cases where they have good reasons to believe that spread of infection is through the medium of milk to require the infected person to discontinue such employment. This applies to persons engaged in all kinds of dairy work, the handling of vessels containing milk and in distributive service. Aggrieved persons may appeal against such decisions to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction within 14 days. The regulations are enforceable by penalties. This policy has substant-

ially been operated by your Officers for many years, they have declined to register as retailers of milk, persons known to be infected. The milk supply in your Council's area has been and is being safeguarded by constant supervision of those engaged in the business.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925:--This is another measure which came into operation in September last, excepting certain adoptive provisions. The Medical Officer of Health is empowered to examine persons in a Common Lodging House in all instances where it contains a person either suffering or who has suffered from an infectious disease. The Local Authority may also apply for a Closing Order of Common Lodging Houses on account of infectious diseases therein.

It is necessary to make application to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order for the removal of infectious persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. Periods of detention and maintenance in Hospital may not exceed three months, subject to a renewal in cases of special risks of infection.

Section 73 of the Act prohibits collectors and dealers in rags and/or bones from selling or distributing from any cart, barrow or other vehicle any article of food or balloon or other toy. The same restriction applies to the agents of such merchants.

CONCLUSION:--I have sufficiently indicated the vast amount of work and increasing responsibilities devolving upon Sanitary Authorities and the greater efficiency demanded from their Health Officers. I wish again to pay tribute to your Sanitary Inspector (Mr D. Llewellyn) whose ready help and co-operation has been most valuable to me in the volume of good work achieved throughout the eleven Parishes comprising the district. He has displayed energy, initiative and tact in discharging his varied duties. He keeps conversant with all the changes affecting the responsibilities of your Authority which tend towards a progressive improvement in the general health of the District. I am grateful to members of the Council for their loyal support in all matters which, as your Medical Officer of Health, it has been my duty to bring before you.

I have the honour to remain,
Your Obedient Servant,

Bertram Addenbrooke, M.D; B.Hy;

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1925.
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To the Chairman and Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.

Kidderminster.
January, 1926.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my 17th Annual Report of the sanitary and other work carried out in my department during the year ending December 31st, 1925.

NUISANCES.

The nuisances or infringements found in the course of district inspection during the year, as well as those reported by the persons affected, have been of a very wide and varied character.

There have been found, reported upon and dealt with, a total of 683, of which 664 have been remedied.

Some of the more important matters dealt with included the tipping of offensive refuse on the highways and river banks, to prohibit which your Council sanctioned the erection of notice boards: the practice of rag sorting in lanes or on the side of highways, which practice was considered by your Medical Officer of Health to be a menace to the public health: the depositing of decaying farm land refuse on land near a public elementary school: and insanitary conditions found at a number of public houses and other premises due to the absence of proper drainage arrangements.

At Wribbenhall, towards the end of the year, certain unsatisfactory conditions prevailed, for a time, as a result of the flooding of the river Severn.

There are many phases of public health work to be dealt with in a wide district like ours which cannot be enumerated under any one particular heading, but all of which have a distinct bearing on the general good health of the people. It is not too much to add that the health of the district has been exceedingly good during the year, which is borne out by the fact that the number of infectious cases notified (27) is the second lowest for the past 21 years.

NOTICES FOR ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

There have been fewer notices served during this year than in any previous year, only 15 preliminary and 2 statutory notices having been issued. The 15 first named notices affected only 5 different blocks of buildings. A larger number of meetings have been held with owners, agents, and others concerned than has hitherto been the case: and with the writing of letters instead of the service of notices, it is possible to report a larger measure of successful work to secure compliance with your requirements.

These meetings on the spot continue to be much appreciated by all persons interested in the subject matter for which they are held, and I would here like to acknowledge the ready and willing help I have invariably received from the owners and agents in the carrying out of the necessary improvements, which have an influence on the health of the occupants of the properties dealt with and on those of the whole community.

COMPLAINTS.

The complaints received have been quite small in number and none of a serious nature. The periodical and systematic visitation of the district enables your Officer to keep himself in close touch with all conditions that are likely to affect the health of the residents, so that there is very little chance for any conditions to arise and continue for any length of time without being detected.

In all cases where complaints were made the conditions were investigated and action taken where required.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS.

(District Inspection).

Considerable activity has been shown in the matter of housing during the past year, for in addition to a very large number of important sanitary and structural improvements that have been carried out to properties in practically every parish throughout the district, there have been a number of new houses erected, and in many cases increased accommodation provided.

A request was made by the Parish Council's of Chaddesley Corbett and Wolverley for Housing Schemes and your Council directed your Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector to furnish special reports on the housing conditions in both these parishes. A careful inspection and examination was carried out during October, November and December, following which a detailed report was prepared and submitted for your consideration. In these reports a total of 347 houses in Chaddesley Corbett and 555 in Wolverley were inspected and reported upon.

With a view to dealing with a number of properties in the district the Council (at the request of their Sanitary Inspector) appointed a Sub-Committee to confer with owners, who, as a consequence, have carried out large and ~~important~~ improvements.

In one instance only has your Council decided to put a Closing Order into operation during the year, affecting a cottage at The Old Forge, Wolverley.

The following is a summary of the properties dealt with and action taken in respect of same:-:-

Houses and Localities.	Action taken and result.
1-2 Brettells' Cottages, Shatterford, Arley.	Both cottages thoroughly repaired and renovated and made fit.
Bourne Green Cottage, Chaddesley Corbett.	Cottage suggested by owner be closed. Owner has now repaired the building and made fit for habitation.
Beauty Bank Cottage, Chaddesley Corbett.	Cottage unfit. Closing Order served. Cottage not now used for sleeping purposes.
Villa Farm, Drayton.	General repairs carried out.
Bryn Stour Cottage, Cookley.	One of two cottages which had been empty for 40 years. Is now put into a good state of repair and occupied. Contains 4 rooms.
1-3 and 4-7 Trimpley View Cottages, Cookley.	General repairs carried out. New drains laid and privies converted into pan closets.
1-3 Raths Cottages, Portway Place, Cookley.	General repairs carried out, cleansing and limewashing.
Hughes' Cottages (1-2) Portway Place, Cookley.	General repairs and renovations.
Perk's Cottage, Portway Place, Cookley.	General repairs, new drains laid, new pan closet erected, etc.,
1-4 High View Cottages, Lion Fields, Cookley.	General repairs and renovations. Conversion of privies into pan closets.
1-2 Howell's Cottages, Lion Fields, Cookley.	Both cottages thoroughly repaired and renovated. New drains, sinks and conversion of privies into pan closets.
Rock Cottage, Caunsall, Cookley.	Considerable repairs and improvements—both inside and out—effected.

Houses and Localities.	Action taken and result.
Birchen Coppice Farm and Cottage, Oldington.	Met Borough Surveyor on the spot and both farm house and the cottage have been thoroughly repaired and renovated.
Puxton Meadow Cottage, Nr Kidderminster.	This cottage is very damp and badly situated and subject to floods. Closing Order served on owners, same being unfit for habitation.
194-194 Wood Lane Cottages, Hurcott.	Extensive repairs carried out and sanitary improvements effected. Privies converted into pan closets, etc.,
Spennell's Cottage, Nr Kidderminster.	Cottage overcrowded in early part of year. The house has been thoroughly repaired and made fit, new drains laid, improved closet accommodation provided, general cleansing, etc,
Lunnon Lane Cottage, Rushock.	Considerable repairs and improvements have been carried out, new drains, closet, etc.,
1-2 Bradford Cottages, Stone.	Extensive structural and sanitary improvements effected. New closets in place of old and dilapidated privies, general cleansing.
Potmore Cottage, Stone.	General repairs carried out, new drains, sink, spouting, increased lighting and ventilation to bed and living rooms.
Toll House, Fairfield, Wolverley.	Cottage thoroughly repaired both inside and out. New drains laid and privy converted into pan closet with increased lighting and ventilation.
1-4 Post Office Row, Wribbenhall.	General repairs carried out, painting, cleansing and limewashing.
Netherton Cottages (1-2) Wribbenhall.	Both cottages thoroughly repaired, cleansed and limewashed.
Gt Western Cottage, Wribbenhall.	Extensive alterations and improvements carried out. New drains and new W. Closet.
Solcum Cottages, Wolverley.	General repairs carried out to both houses, cleansing, limewashing and painting.
65 The Old Forge, Wolverley.	Closing Order served May 1924. Operation of Order postponed by order of the Council, but is now to be put into effect.
1-7 Wolverley Cottages, Wolverley.	Extensive alterations and improvements now in progress. Six new wash-houses being erect in place of two old buildings, and 7 new pan closets in place of 2 privy-ashpits, new drains, cleansing and limewashing.
1-5 Blueball Cottages, Cockley.	General repairs carried out, cleansing and limewashing. New Wash-house and drains.
Hedger's Cottage, Village, Chaddesley Corbett.	This cottage was formerly used as a wash-house. Has now been repaired and made fit for habitation and is occupied.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) AND
(PREVENTION) ACTS.

Twenty-seven cases of infectious disease have been notified during the year, compared with 38 for 1924: 35 for 1923: 31 for 1922: 44 for 1921: 27 for 1920: and 43 for 1919. The details are as follows:-

Scarlet fever.	11	against	24	for 1924.
Diphtheria.	3	"	Nil	" "
Tuberculosis.	7	"	11	" "
Erysipelas.	3	"	1	" "
Puerperal fever.	1	"	Nil	" "
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	"	Nil.	" "
Enteric fever.	Nil	"	1	" "
Influenzal Pneumonia.	Nil	"	1	" "
<hr/>				
Totals	27	"	38	" "

Of the 11 cases of scarlet fever, 5 occurred at Chaddesley Corbett during the 5 weeks August 28 and Oct 1: 2 at Wolverley: one at Cookley: one at Wribbenhall and two at Ribbesford. One house only was affected in each of the 11 cases. The ages of the patients ranged from 5 years to 23 years. One case only was removed to the Isolation Hospital, the patient being a young married woman of 23 years.

In regard to the occurrence of the 5 cases at Chaddesley, a special report was prepared and submitted at your October meeting, dealing fully with the outbreak. All of the five cases notified were treated at home without any expense to your Council.

As is usual in such circumstances your Sanitary Inspector visited the Mixed and Infants' departments of the schools with a view to securing the co-operation of the Head Teachers in the taking of steps to prevent the spread of the disease. From September 18th onwards frequent visits were paid to these schools and throughout the district. The names of all absent scholars were obtained on each visit and the respective homes were visited, the parents in each case were advised to seek medical advice with a view to proper remedial measures being taken.

I am pleased to be able to report that since October 1st no other cases occurred in the district, and your Health Officers are fully convinced that as a result of the prompt measures taken, they were definitely able to check what might otherwise have been a very serious outbreak of scarlet fever.

One of the seven cases of tuberculosis was notified by the School Medical Officer: two were members of one family—a young woman of 20 years and a brother of 18 years, the former being a domestic servant. One death of a young woman took place at Cookley. Fumigation was carried out here as in all the other houses in which cases were treated at home, and the interior walls were thoroughly cleansed and limewashed.

A shelter at Puxton—used by a tubercular patient—was, at the request of the County Authorities, fumigated in November, as it was not required for further use.

SCHOOL CLOSURES.

The following closures of schools took place during the year for the reasons stated below:-

Mixed and Infants' depts. Hill Pool—from Feb 25 to Feb 28 on account of Influenzal colds.

Wribbenhall Council Schools (Mixed and Infants) Feb 25th to March 7th for Influenzal colds.

Wribbenhall C.E. Schools—Infants dept—April 28th to May 18th. Whooping Cough.

Chaddesley Corbett Endowed Schools—Infants dept—Oct 5 to Oct 18—Scarlet fever and colds.

Arley schools—Dec 21 to Dec 23rd inclusive—Chicken-pox.

Wribbenhall schools (C.E.) during May—were badly affected from Whooping Cough: Trimpley in July, from Measles: Hoobrook also in July for same reason, the attendance in each of these cases being below 60 %.

Five

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON, FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME. BY SAMUEL JOHNSON, ESQ. OF THE BARR, AT LINCOLN'S INN. IN TWO VOLUMES. VOL. II. LONDON: PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAULS CHURCH-YARD, 1790.

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Five schools were closed for one week each-mid-term-for the purpose of allowing the elder children to go potato-picking, though very few of them actually availed themselves of doing the work. Broom, Churchill and Wolverley schools were closed from Oct 19 to Oct 26, and Stone and Trimpey schools from Oct 26 to Nov 2nd.

A general survey of all schools in the district was made in March-June-Sept-and December, details of which were furnished to your Council. The object of the visit on each occasion was to ascertain the health conditions prevailing among the children, and throughout the district. These conditions were found to be most satisfactory: the attendances in some cases being 100 per cent of the number of children on the registers.

Considerable sanitary improvements have been effected at Hill Pool school: Stone schools: and at Chaddeley Corbett Endowed schools (both depts).

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

All premises used for the purpose of milk production and storage and sale have been inspected periodically, and in most cases the requirements of the various Orders and Acts have been given effect to without any official action being required. The attention of a number of occupiers of Cowsheds and Dairies was called to the need for limewashing of their respective premises, which work was promptly carried out.

There have been considerable improvements effected in a number of Cowsheds and farm premises in various parts of the district, the effect of which is that milk is now dealt with in the best possible conditions on the premises concerned.

Under the Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922 applications for registration were received from 9 wholesale producers of milk and from 12 retailers of milk, affecting practically every parish in your area. This Act came into operation on Sept 1st 1922, since which date applications for registration have been received and granted to 39 wholesalers and 42 retailers of milk-in addition to those who were previously licensed under the Dairies Order of 1886.

With such registration of all producers and purveyors of milk in the Council's area, a better and more effectual control of the milk supply is secured.

FOOD SUPPLY.

The question of food supply has received a large measure of my time and attention during the year in view of the regulations that came into operation on April 1st 1925.

Numerous visits have been paid to all parts of the district to examine the carcasses of animals-sheep and pigs-which had been slaughtered for sale by farmers and cottagers.

A general review of the work done under these important Meat Regulations will be made at the end of the first years operations. Prior to these regulations coming into force all owners and occupiers of slaughter-houses and food shops were circularised calling their attention to their new obligations.

During May the carcasses of 3 sheep were condemned as unfit for food. In June the carcass of one pig was found unfit. On August 27th an 18 months old bullock was taken out of the canal at Cookley. The animal was slaughtered, but the meat was found on examination to be quite unfit for human food. Another bullock of the same age belonging to the same farmer was also condemned.

During October, while inspecting carcasses of animals at Chaddeley, the carcass of a sheep was found to be unfit and was destroyed.

Information was received that a consignment of 100 cases of unsound condensed milk had been sent into this district for the purpose of pig, cattle and poultry feeding. The premises in question were at once visited and it was found that the milk was being used only for the purpose stated.

The meat and other foods sold in your district are generally of very good quality-where any doubt exists in the mind of the tradespeople they have no hesitation in seeking the advice of your responsible officers in regard to the articles in question.

OVERCROWDING.

Two cases only of overcrowding have been found and dealt with: both affecting two families in each house, one at Rushock and one at Spennells.

In the first case the overcrowding was caused by the presence of 11 persons in a two-bedroomed cottage. This cottage was visited by the Relieving Officer and the Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. when certain arrangements were made—one of which entered the workhouse until the man—who was out of work—could secure employment and better accommodation for his family. In the other case, a preliminary notice was served on those responsible, and the second family removed outside the district.

During the special inspection of the two parishes—Chaddesley Corbett and Wolverley—no conditions were found in which any official action could be taken.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supplies of the district have been kept under observation as to quality and quantity. There has been no shortage of water in any part of the district. At Cookley the Council's water cart has for some time past been used for the distribution of water to those residents whose wells were either condemned, or at which the pumps were defective. Three cottages on the Lea Castle Estate were provided with a supply from the public mains, as were also Puxton House and Puxton Farm and Cottage.

Samples of water totalling 36 were taken from wells situate at Puxton, Hoobrook, Shatterford, Hill Pool, Drayton, Chaddesley Village, Stone Finney and Wribbenhall. These were submitted to the County Analyst for analysis. Where the water was certified not fit for use and a public supply was available, the houses affected have been connected with the public mains. At Wribbenhall 27 houses were thus provided for—3 at Puxton and 3 at Wolverley.

In all other cases the wells have been thoroughly cleaned out and considerable sanitary improvements effected in the immediate neighbourhood of the wells.

At Grey Green, Wribbenhall, a complaint was made as to obstruction of the water supply. The water in this case is obtained from a spring on farm premises and conveyed by pipe from this spring a quarter of a mile distant. Investigation was made and it was found that the pipe had become obstructed through want of cleaning out of the brick chamber in which the water was stored. This was eventually cleaned and there has been no further stoppage.

Two cottages at Barnett Mill, Chaddesley Corbett, were without water due to the pump being defective. The attention of the agents was called to the matter and the necessary repairs were soon put in hand.

In regard to the water supply at Cookley, the County Analyst—Mr C.C. Duncan—paid a visit to the Bore-hole and took a sample of water, this being the second sample taken by him. Mr Duncan was pleased with the condition of the water from this source.

A sample of water was taken in November for the owner from the stream at Stone Finney, as it is proposed to use this water at a residence which the owner proposes to erect in the parish. The analyst's certificate was forwarded to those concerned in the matter.

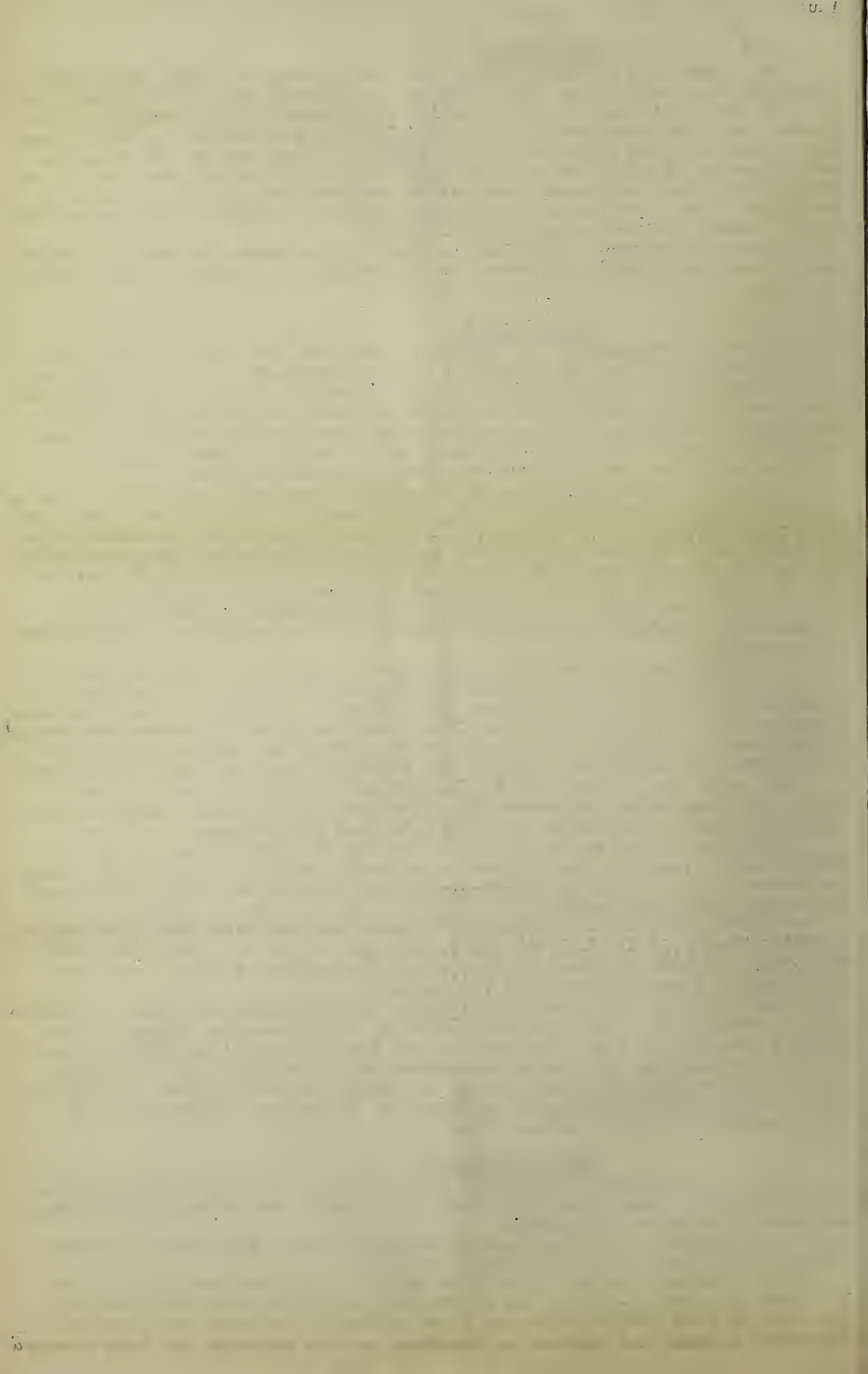
Your Sanitary Inspector was directed by your Medical Officer of Health while carrying out a district inspection of the Chaddesley parish on the housing question—to take samples of water from the wells in the Village. A total of 25 samples were taken and submitted for analysis to the County Analyst. The results were embodied in a special report prepared jointly by your Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector and submitted to your Council for their consideration.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

All slaughterhouses throughout the district have been inspected once weekly—in some cases oftener—on special occasions when required to examine carcasses of animals slaughtered.

A new system of drainage and other improvements have been satisfactorily carried out to the premises at Cookley.

The premises used as a Knacker's yard at Oldington were transferred to a new site and re-erected in accordance with your requirements. Water was laid on from public mains and a new system of drainage provided. The Knacker's license was renewed in December, and the business has been carried



on without any cause for complaint.

Two new slaughterhouses have been erected-one at Barrow Hill Pig Farm and the other in the Village of Chaddesley Corbett-in accordance with plans submitted and approved by your Council.Both buildings are ideal in every way and have been in use since June. The slaughterhouse at Barrow Hill was closed from Oct 8th to Oct 21st as,owing to the death of a small pig on the farm,the farm was declared to be an infected area.The organs of the dead pig were examined and the conditions were found not to be those of Swine fever.

All other similar buildings in the district have been cleansed and limewashed as required.

BAKEHOUSES.

These places have been regularly and systematically visited during the year,and in all cases the requirements as to cleansing and limewashing have been duly carried out.No complaint has been made or received in regard to any of the bakehouses in the district,and so far as the owners and occupiers of these various premises are concerned,they are always willing to give effect to any recommendations made by your Officers for the proper maintenance of the premises.

No underground bakehouses exist in the district.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

A number of cases of suspected Anthrax have been reported during the year.In May a case was reported at Chaddesley where the animal in question was a young heifer,one of 14 bought at Leominster market.These animals were brought by road and when near the end of the journey the heifer fell exhausted and was unable to walk.The animal was conveyed to its destination in a cart and died there,the same night.An examination by a Veterinary Surgeon showed that death was due to exhaustion,no trace of any disease being present.Every precaution was taken in regard to all the other animals on the farm.

On Nov 11th a two year old bullock-one of a large number on a farm near Blakedown-died.The carcass was examined and this showed that the animal's death was due to Black Quarter.The carcass was buried on the premises.

A number of cases of Swine fever occurred at Churchill in December.5 pigs were purchased at the local market and were kept isolated in a building apart from others already on the premises.On Saturday Dec 5th one of the 5 pigs died and one death took place on each of the four succeeding days, making 5 deaths in all,every one of which was due to Swine fever.These carcasses were all buried in lime.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

The conditions under which animals are housed have been kept under observation and in a number of cases steps have been taken to remedy such conditions as were found to be unsatisfactory.

Piggeries at Lower Chaddesley,which adjoined the public highway were found to be kept in a most unsatisfactory condition and the owners of all the animals were requested to discontinue the keeping of pigs on the premises.

At Wribbenhall a complaint was made regarding Fowl-keeping which had been allowed to become offensive.Efforts were made to secure an abatement of the conditions complained of and a statutory notice was authorised to be served.This had the desired effect.

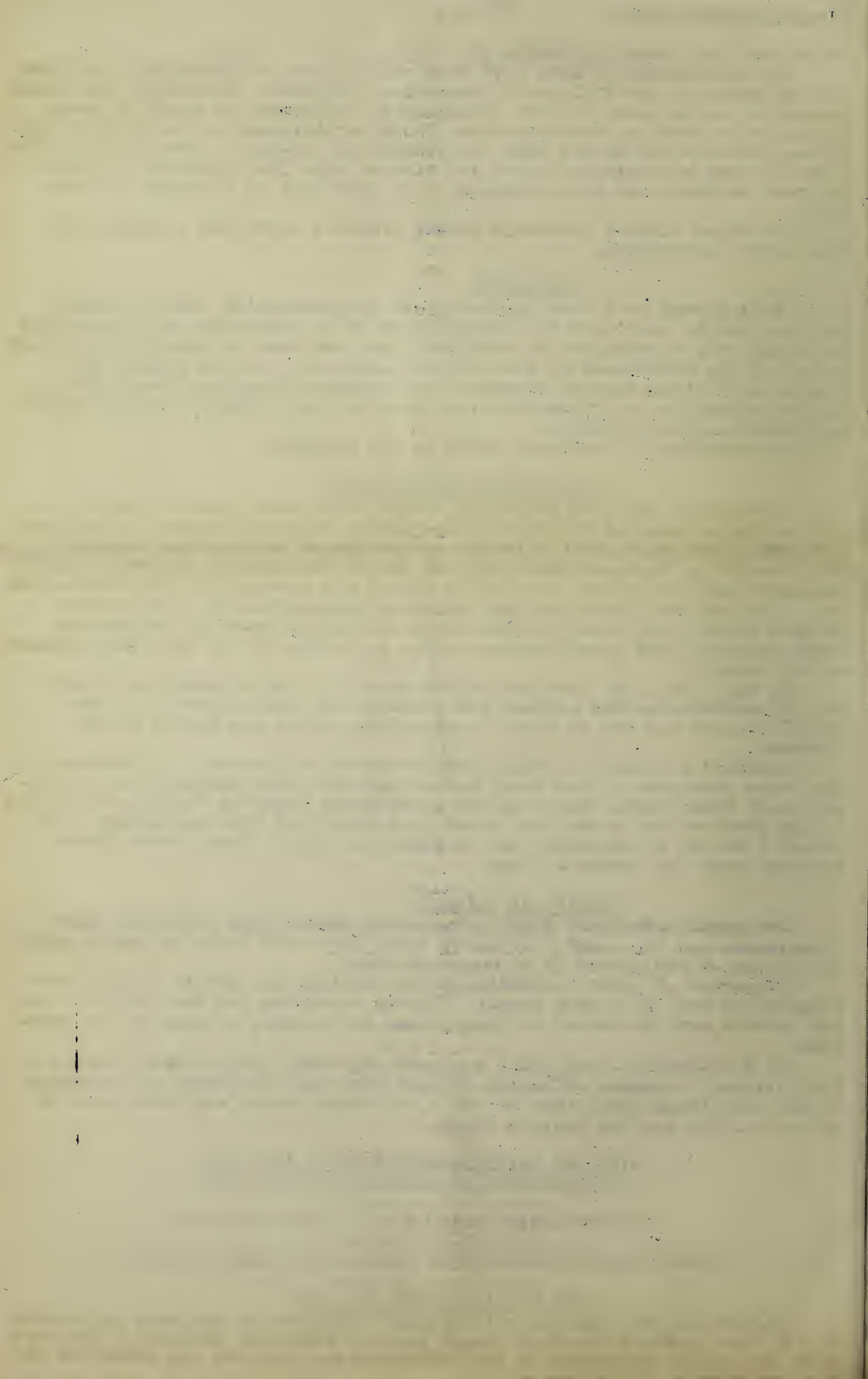
MILK AND DAIRIES CONSOLIDATION ACT,1925.
(COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATION ORDER,1925).

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER OF 1925,MEAT INSPECTION.

PUBLIC HEALTH(PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)REGULATIONS,1925.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT,1925.

Digests of the contents with special reference to the main provisions of the above named Acts-all of which have an important bearing on the food, milk and health conditions of the district-were prepared and submitted for the information of the Council.



TUBERCULOSIS ORDER OF 1925(NO 2)MEAT INSPECTION.

This Order came into operation on Sept 1st 1925, and under its provisions a large number of animals have been dealt with.

On Sept 2nd a case was reported from Cockley. The animal was examined, but it was found not to be tuberculosis. The heifer, however, was in a very emaciated state and the owner called in the knacker.

A cow, belonging to a Cookley farmer, found to be affected, was slaughtered and the carcass destroyed.

At Chaddeley, where a cow was suspected and found not affected, although in a very emaciated state, the animal was sent to the knackers.

In each of the above cases the animal was a milch cow.

This Order provides that notice of intention to slaughter shall be given to the Sanitary Authority, as well as to the owner of the animal, where it is intended that the carcass should be disposed of for human consumption, and that no part of the carcass shall be removed for that purpose, except with permission of the Medical Officer of Health or other competent Officer. Animals to be slaughtered under this Order—which are known or believed to be diseased—are to receive special attention as to inspection before any parts are passed for human consumption.

This Order affects Rural districts to a very large extent from the fact that it is in such Rural districts that Cattle are mainly kept and housed.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging work at Wribbenhall and Cookley and Wolverley has been carried on satisfactorily. In the former parish no fewer than 39 new ashbins and 43 new pans for outbuildings have been provided—affecting between 80 and 90 houses.

Considerable anxiety was occasioned to residents of Wribbenhall arising from the extraordinary flooded state of the river Severn. The Council's tip was completely under water, and it became necessary for other ground to be temporarily secured until the flood water had subsided. A good deal of extra work has been carried out in this parish during the past 3 months in dealing with the dumbwell solids.

On Sept 10th I attended a special meeting of Wribbenhall Parish Council, at their request, and submitted a statement of facts as to the scheme of scavenging in the district.

At Cookley and Wolverley the present scavenging scheme deals only with the removal of house refuse, and the work here has been done without a single complaint. The Council's tips in both these areas were not affected by any floods, so that the scavenging work has not been interfered with.

The public ashpits in Arley village have been regularly emptied and kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

There have been a large number of conversions of privies into approved pan closets at both Cookley and Wolverley, in addition to which extra closet accommodation has been provided in 14 cases.

Several visits of inspection were paid to the tip on Stourport Road and used by an adjoining Authority, and on each occasion conditions were found to be quite satisfactory.

The excessively heavy rains experienced during parts of the year led to the filling up of dumbwells with surface water, throughout the whole of your district, but as a result of the steps taken to deal with these conditions, not a single complaint was received as to any ill-effects arising from the flooding.

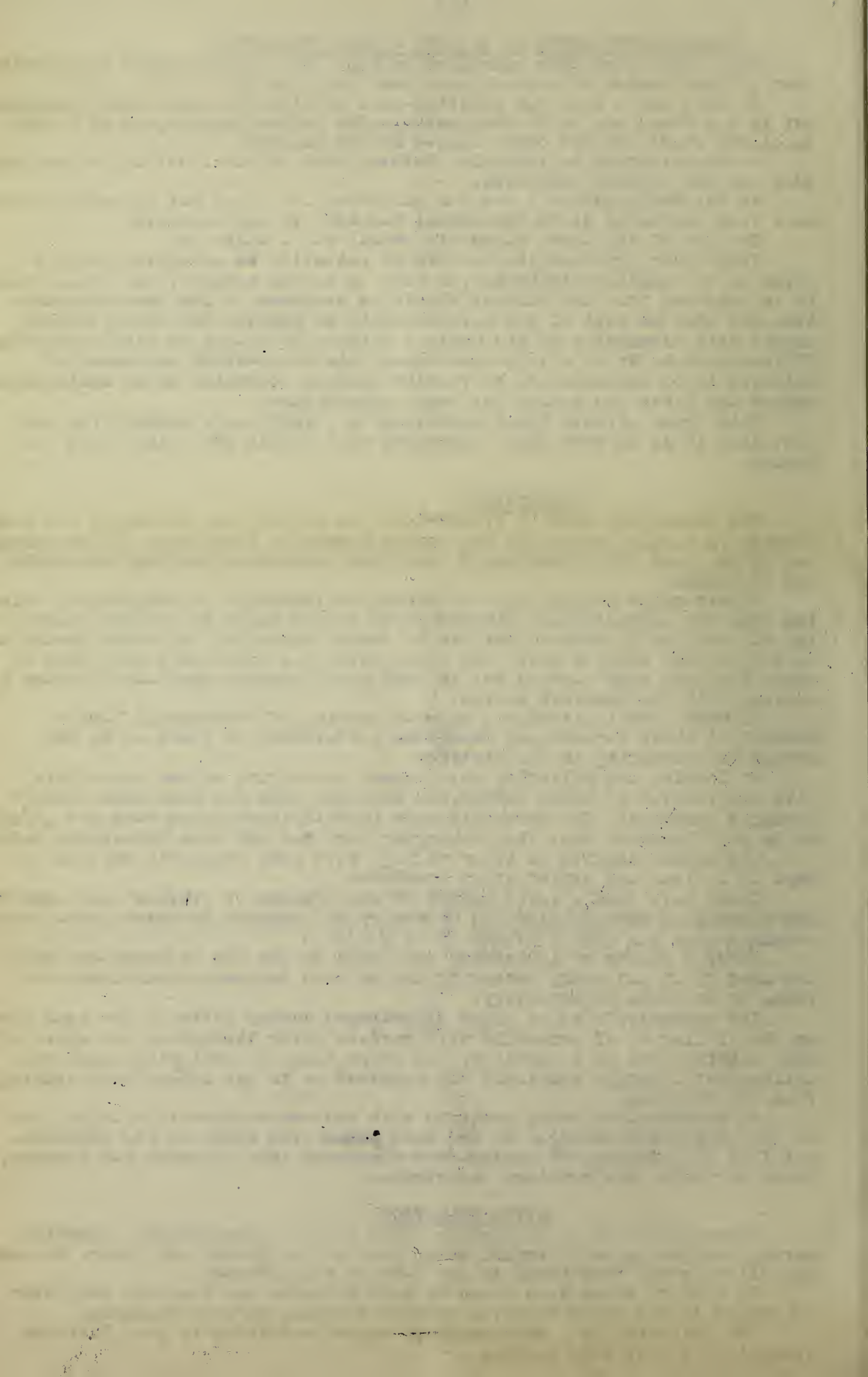
At Hocbrock—following meetings with the owner—where the larger part of the properties belonged to the same person, the whole of the privies—a total of 17, affecting 25 houses—were converted into approved pan closets, which are much more sanitary and cleaner.

RIVER POLLUTION.

River pollution is a question which has had considerable attention during the year, special regard being paid to the Severn and Stour. No case of pollution has been found in any part of the district.

In January steps were taken by your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector in regard to the river Stour, to prevent flooding in your district.

The following is a supplementary report submitted by your Sanitary Inspector at your July meeting:—



SURVEY OF THE RIVER SEVERN.

"Gentlemen,

July, 1925.

I beg to submit the following supplementary report of the adjourned survey of the River Severn (which should have taken place last September), on June 10th, in which I took part, as your Officer, at the request of Dr E.C. Jee, of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries: Lieut L. Hugh Milne, District Inspector of Fisheries: and Mr Cecil C. Duncan, County Analyst, Shirehall, Worcester:-

On May 20 I received a letter from Mr Duncan stating that the adjourned Survey of the River Severn was to take place on Wednesday, June 10th and asking me for my help. This I promised to give and to place my Car at the disposal of the Government Officials.

On Monday, June 8th, I met Dr Jee and Lieut Milne, and together made a Survey of the River Stour from Stewponey to Stourport, where the Stour joins the Severn.

On Tuesday, June 9th, a visit was paid to Shrewsbury and the River surveyed, with its several tributaries and various works' effluents, as far as Arley.

On Wednesday, June 10th, samples of the Severn water were taken at various points, beginning at Arley, by Dr Jee, and continued down to Tewkesbury, an approximate distance of over 30 miles. On this day a complete Survey was made of the River Severn from its Source to the Sea, being taken part in by the respective Authorities through whose district the River passes.

Dr Jee recommended that your Inspector should be provided with the necessary apparatus with which to take samples of water from the Rivers Severn, Stour and all Streams discharging into either or both Rivers, with a view to his assisting the Ministry in their efforts to deal with river pollution. The estimated cost of this equipment is about £3.

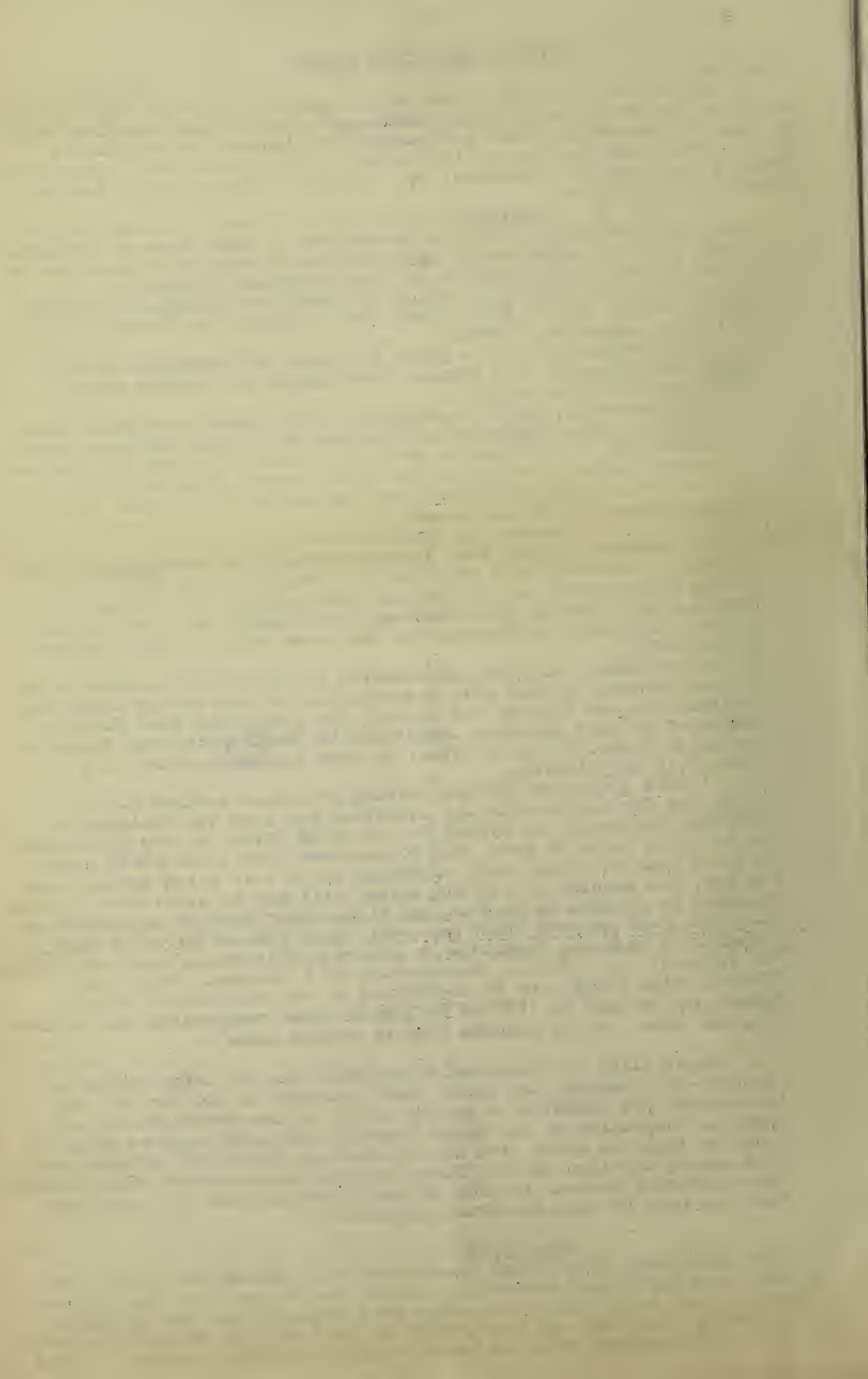
Dr Jee expressed his warm appreciation of the efforts already made by your Council to deal with the condition of the Rivers under your jurisdiction, and thanked the Council for permitting your Sanitary Inspector to give him what assistance he could during the Survey of the River Stour. Dr Jee's letter to your Inspector, under date June 26, is as follows:-

"I must apologise for not writing you at an earlier date to thank you for the trouble and attention you gave the Ministry's District Inspector and myself in our brief survey of the River Stour on 8-9 June last. We were able to compress into a few short hours without loss of detail what otherwise would have taken several days to see. The results of our inspection will not be available for some time but it appears to me that the River Stour must be considered as a river apart and one which may well repay the attention of the Ministry's Standing Committee on Rivers Pollution. Without attempting to forecast any official recommendations I sincerely hope your Council will permit you to co-operate in any ministerial efforts which may be made in 1926 to influence those responsible for polluting the river and to educate them to better ways."

Lieut Milne had previously forwarded the following letter of thanks:- "My Ministry are really most grateful to you for all the assistance you rendered us in the matter of the Severn Survey and general inspection of the River Stour. I certainly hope we shall be able to take the whole area in hand soon, as I feel the efforts you are making to clean up the "Stour" should receive every encouragement. My experience however teaches me that these matters all take time and can only be done by mutual good-will"

PEA-PICKERS.

The conditions under which Pea-pickers were housed throughout the district were kept under observation during the season June and July and although a very large number of people were engaged from the Dudley and Black Country districts and also numerous local workers nothing was found to which any exception could be taken requiring official action. Much



Much activity was shown during July in the work of peapicking, as the season had rather rapidly developed owing to the weather, and during this time there was a much larger influx of pickers.

Those pickers who came from outside the district were provided with good bedding accommodation and in every case provision was made for water within easy distance.

The general health of the pickers was good.

BUNGALOWS.

Special visits of inspection of all the Bungalows and Camps in the district were made during Easter, Whitsuntide and August Bank Holidays. These places were principally on both sides of the river Severn at Dowles and Wribbenhall, although during the August holiday Camps were pitched in practically every parish in the district.

In the case of the Bungalows, the conditions were found to be generally satisfactory, but as regards the Camps—which were occupied chiefly by young men from the Black Country and Birmingham districts—the sanitary arrangements were found in a number of cases to be rather primitive. Upon the attention of those responsible being called to the need for better accommodation, the suggestions made by your Officers were promptly given effect to.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

There have been more meetings held with owners, agents and others concerned during the year than in any previous year in regard to sanitary improvements which were considered to be necessary to bring the respective properties into compliance with present day needs.

At the request of their Sanitary Inspector the Council appointed representatives to meet owners at Cookley and Wolverley, when a total of 14 houses were dealt with at Cookley and the recommendations made were fully carried out, while at Wolverley, where extensive alterations were required, the work is in hand. In this case 5 new wash-houses and 7 new pan closets were erected in place of 2 privies and 2 wash-houses previously in use.

At Birchen Coppice Farm house and Cottage considerable improvements were effected both inside and out. The same observation may be made in regard to 1-4 Hanover Cottages and 1-2 Bank Cottages, Wribbenhall, where new pan closets were put in to replace old privy-middens and new wash-houses erected and general repairs carried out. There are large numbers of properties in several other parishes that have been similarly dealt with—the cost of the work in the aggregate, has amounted to many hundreds of pounds which, in the opinion of your Health Officers has had a beneficial effect on the health of the residents of the districts concerned.

In a number of cases public houses—frequented by both male and female customers—have been provided with increased and improved closet and urinal accommodation, separate provision being made for both sexes.

TENTS, VANS AND SHED ERECTIONS.

While going through the district from time to time I came across conditions, under which people live, which were very unsatisfactory. These were reported at your monthly meetings as to the steps taken and result of same.

- (1) Mess Room, Chaddesley Corbett. A room forming part of farm buildings was used as a dwelling house by a man and woman and child of 3 years. The conditions being most unsatisfactory, representations were made to those responsible with the result that things were much improved.
- (2) Stable dwelling, Drayton. An unused stable building occupied by a family of three—man, wife and child. This family removed out of the district into a cottage in the adjoining parish of Belbroughton.
- (3) Five Caravan dwellings in Wilden Lane, Hoobrook, were occupied by 27 people of all ages: the occupants being dirty and unkempt. They had only just arrived at the time of my inspection and intended spending the night, but were requested to move on, and they all left the district the same afternoon.
- (4) Cowshed, Lower Chaddesley. A cowshed forming part of a farm at Lower Chaddesley, was being used as a dwelling by a man and wife, both of whom had been ejected from a cottage in the district. Within a few

hundred yards of the farm building was an empty cottage which had been vacant for two months and belonged to the farmer. Upon reporting to your Council the conditions were remedied, the family being permitted to remove to the then vacant cottage.

(5) Cipsy Caravans, Barnett Hill, Chaddesley Corbett. Five of these caravans were found in a lane off Barnett Hill. There were 20 occupants and the conditions were very unsatisfactory. They were requested to remove and this they did the same day.

(6) Caravans. Near the Four Dwellings and Axboro' district of Wolverley a number of Cipsy caravans were met with on vacant ground near the highway. There were several families including children whose ages ranged from 10 years to 1½ years. The conditions were most insanitary, the ground being littered with filthy rags and other refuse and no provision was made for either water or sanitary accommodation. Those in charge were asked to remove, and on visiting the site in question the next day, they had cleared out of the district.

WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

All the Mills, Workshops and Workplaces throughout the district have been regularly visited with the view to securing compliance with the sanitary requirements of the Factory Acts. At the works of the Steel Stampings Ltd, Cookley, where I met the Manager on the spot, the outbuildings used by the 120-130 men employed were brought up to the required standard as to sanitary conveniences, cleansing and limewashing. There were also provided a better means of privacy in regard to these buildings than had previously been the case.

In all cases in the area conditions were found to be satisfactory. No cases of homeworkers were notified nor did any come under my notice.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Under these Acts there have been 7 applications for licenses to store and sell petrol and carbide, all of which were granted on the recommendation of your Officer. These applications were made and granted in respect of premises situate at the Beet Sugar Factory, Oldington: Mustow Green and Harvington, Chaddesley Corbett: Shenstone: Hoobrock, Cookley and Shatterford.

All the other licenses affecting practically every parish in the area were renewed. Visits were paid from time to time to the different premises for which licenses were granted and in no case was any infringement found.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

During the year 32 visits were paid to the Wharves, etc., to examine boats while passing along Canals in this district. Sixty-seven boats were examined and contraventions were found in seven cases.

Eleven visits have been paid to the Canal side at different intervals during the year, when no boats were found plying.

The position as regards the owners of Slack Boats not having made the necessary provision for the sleeping of their boatmen on their journeys to and from the Black Country remain the same as that reported at the end of 1924. The traffic in the conveyance of Slack has considerably diminished, the Canal traffic being superseded by road transport.

The frozen condition of the Canal during December badly affected the plying of the boats on the Canal.

Under the new Regulations, which came into operation in September, the owner of a Canal boat, if convicted for failure to maintain such boat in a satisfactory condition, may have his licence of registration suspended or cancelled.

In so far as the owners of the boats plying in your district are concerned, I am able to state that such owners have always shown a readiness to comply with any request made to them.

No sickness has been found amongst any of the occupants of the boats plying on the Canal, nor has any notification been made to me that any sickness had taken place.



CONCLUSION.

The increasing volume of sanitary work to be done, due to the passing of new Acts affecting every branch of the department, particularly in regard to Meat Inspection and Food Supply, Infectious disease and Housing matters, etc., has demanded much of my time and attention in order that I may give your Council the very best services.

I must thank the Council for the loyal support and assistance they have throughout the year given me in the carrying out of my very varied and onerous duties. I would point out that without the improved means of transport-towards the running cost of which your Council are good enough to make me an allowance-it would have been quite impossible to have done what has already been accomplished. By means of my Car I have been able to cover the district quite often and to keep in touch with local conditions when any special emergency has arisen, such as the outbreak of Scarlet fever at Chaddesley during August and September.

With a continuance of such support as has been accorded me in the past it will be my earnest endeavour to give the best of my services in the interests of your Council and of the public health of your wide district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

B. Havellyn.

Certified Sanitary & Meat Inspector.

